

AVIAN/PANDEMIC FLU NEWSLETTER

THE OFFICIAL AVIAN INFLUENZA NEWSLETTER OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY



FLU:Pandemic/Bird
Plan. Prepare. Protect.
County of San Diego

www.sdbirdflu.org

VOLUME II, ISSUE 8

APRIL 3, 2007

Avian Influenza: Current Global Situation Update

AVIAN INFLUENZA CASES IN HUMANS

Since January 2004, the World Health Organization (WHO) has reported human cases of Avian Influenza A/ (H5N1) in twelve countries: Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Egypt, Djibouti, Iraq, Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Nigeria.

Cumulative Number of Confirmed Human Cases of Avian Influenza A/ (H5N1) Reported to WHO through April 2, 2007. WHO only reports laboratory-confirmed cases.

- ◆ Total human cases of H5N1 (confirmed) = **288**
- ◆ Total human deaths from H5N1= **170**

http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/country/cases_table_2007_04_02/en/index.html

World Health Organization (WHO)

Situation in Egypt - April 2, 2007

The Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population has announced three new human cases of avian influenza A(H5N1) virus infection. The cases have been confirmed by the Egyptian Central Public Health Laboratory and by the US Naval Medical Research Unit No.3 (NAMRU-3).

The first case, a 4-year-old boy from Qena Governorate, is the brother of [the 6-year-old girl](#) whose infection was reported on 28 March. He developed symptoms on 26 March and was admitted to hospital on 29 March. The second case, a 7-year-old boy from Sohag Governorate, developed symptoms on 26 March and was hospitalised on 29 March. The third case is a 4-year-old girl from Qalubiea Governorate. She developed symptoms on 29 March and was admitted to hospital the following day.

All three children are receiving treatment and remain in a stable condition. Investigations into the sources of exposure indicate a history of contact with dead birds in each case. Contacts of the children are under surveillance and all remain healthy.

Of the 32 cases confirmed to date in Egypt, 13 have been fatal.

H5N1 avian influenza: Timeline of major events - April 2, 2007

A summary of early and subsequent events in animals and humans. This timeline is periodically updated.

http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/timeline2007_04_02.pdf

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Cumulative Number of Confirmed Human Cases
- Updated H5N1 timeline of major events
- Mild avian flu virus suspected in West Virginia turkeys

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

National News	2
Local and State News	3
Avian Flu in the Media	3

Resources 4

China - March 29, 2007 (WHO)

The Ministry of Health in China has reported a new fatal case of human infection with the H5N1 avian influenza virus. The case has been confirmed by the national laboratory.

The 16-year-old male from Anhui province developed fever and pneumonia-like symptoms on 17 March and was hospitalized on 20 March. He died on 27 March. There is no initial indication to suggest he had contact with sick birds prior to becoming unwell and investigations to identify the source of his exposure are ongoing. Close contacts have been placed under medical observation and all remain well.

Of the 24 cases confirmed to date in China, 15 have been fatal.

http://www.who.int/csr/don/2007_03_29/en/print.html

AVIAN INFLUENZA CASES IN POULTRY AND WILD BIRDS

Countries Affected by Current CDC and USDA Bird Import Restriction

Based on concerns about highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 virus and its potential to cause illness in humans, the CDC and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) have taken steps to prevent importation of birds and unprocessed bird products from countries with the virus in domestic poultry.



<http://www.oie.int/downld/.htm>

NATIONAL NEWS

NIAID Expands Capability for Influenza Research and Surveillance

April 2, 2007

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), today announced it is awarding \$23 million per year for seven years to establish six Centers of Excellence for Influenza Research and Surveillance. Collectively, the centers will expand NIAID's influenza surveillance program internationally and in the United States, and will bolster influenza research in key areas, including understanding how the virus causes disease and how the human immune system responds to infection with the virus. The goal of the newly created centers is to provide the federal government with important information to inform public health strategies for controlling and lessening the impact of seasonal influenza as well as an influenza pandemic.

"The threat of an influenza pandemic is a major source of concern for the public health community," says NIAID Director Anthony S. Fauci, M.D. "The new NIAID Centers of Excellence for Influenza Research and Surveillance will help expand the federal government's existing international and domestic influenza surveillance efforts, further our understanding of influenza viruses, and generate the information and tools necessary to better prepare and respond to a pandemic situation."

The new awards build upon an ongoing program led by St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis,

TN, initiated by NIAID after the 1997 Hong Kong outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza in humans. Under this program, researchers conducted surveillance of influenza viruses in aquatic birds and live bird markets in Hong Kong, which helped shed light on the natural history of flu viruses. Further, scientists conducted training courses in animal influenza surveillance, developed diagnostic tools to detect animal flu viruses, and generated viruses suitable for use in developing human influenza vaccines.

<http://www.nih.gov/news/pr/apr2007/niaid-02.htm>

Mild avian flu virus suspected in West Virginia turkeys (CIDRAP) - April 2, 2007

Officials in West Virginia yesterday planned to cull about 25,000 turkeys at a farm after routine tests indicated that some were probably exposed to a low-pathogenic H5N2 avian influenza virus, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced yesterday.

Authorities discovered the virus 2 days ago during pre-slaughter surveillance conducted by a poultry industry group, the USDA said in a press release. The birds showed no signs of illness, and none had died. A West Virginia Department of Agriculture official said the farm is in Pendleton County in the east-central part of the state, according to a Reuters report.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/avianflu/news.html>

LOCAL AND STATE NEWS

Local News

March 22, 2007 - The County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency PHS, offered a "Pandemic Preparedness Summit" for the business community. Present at the summit were Dr. Wilma J. Wooten, County of San Diego Acting Interim Public Health Officer; Carmel Angelo, Interim Director Emergency Medical Services; along with Clete DiGiovanni, Former Federal Medical and Public Health Advisor. Representing the business community partners were ORC Worldwide, Cox Communications, Northrop Grumman IT, Sempra Energy Utilities, QUALCOMM, Scrips Health and the Hospital Association of San Diego and Imperial Counties.

Local Outreach

Activities related to Pandemic Influenza education in the regions continue with more than 98,194 educational brochures distributed to various locations (e.g., schools, clinics, local businesses, community organizations). In addition, a total of 109 presentations have been provided to staff and community residents; 15 more presentations are scheduled through the coming weeks.

State News - No new updates at this time.

AVIAN FLU IN THE MEDIA

Devise Could Revolutionize Bird Flu Detection

PeaceJournalism.com - March 20, 2007

Bird flu may spread from Indonesia, Egypt, Nigeria: FAO (Washingtonpost.com) April 2, 2007

MILAN (Reuters) - The deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu may spread from Indonesia, [Egypt](#) and Nigeria to other countries as it continues to circulate in Africa and Asia, the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said on Monday.

"The risk of a pandemic will be with us for the foreseeable future," said the United Nations body's chief veterinary officer Joseph Domenech, reiterating calls for global efforts to contain the disease.

Egypt, Indonesia and Nigeria have not been able to contain the disease, effectively making them reservoirs of the virus for possible spread to other countries, the FAO said in a statement.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/.html>



Novavax Vaccine Provides Robust Immune Response, Pre-Clinical Data Show

April 3, 2007

Novavax Inc.'s virus-like particle (VLP) vaccine triggered a robust immune response and provided protec-

tion against the H9N2 strain of avian influenza, according to pre-clinical data published in the online edition of the journal Vaccine.

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/>

India's N-E states restrict entry of poultry from Bangladesh, Myanmar

April 2, 2007 Indian-Muslim [India News](#)

Guwahati, India - Regional governments in India's northeastern region have sounded a health alert by restricting entry of poultry from Bangladesh and Myanmar after the two countries reported outbreaks of bird flu, officials Monday said.

<http://www.indianmuslims.info/news.html>

South Cotabato intensifies monitoring and surveillance of bird flu

March 30, 2007

Koronadal, South Cotabato -- The South Cotabato Provincial Veterinary office had intensified its monitoring and surveillance efforts to avert the possible outbreak of bird flu in the province and other neighboring places hoping to overturn the forecast made by experts that "the Philippines will be affected by this dreaded disease in 2007."

Resources

- County Vector Control Program's **(888) 551-INFO (4636)** for info on how to protect birds, or to report dead birds.
- HHSA's Avian and Pandemic Flu Info Line **(619) 515-6900** for info regarding avian and pandemic flu.
- Educational materials are available for public distribution and are also downloadable from the county website: www.sdbirdflu.org or www.sdpandemicflu.org. Click on "Pandemic Flu".
- National Geographic International Edition: www.nationalgeographic.com
- World Health Organization (WHO): www.who.int
- Federal Dept. of Health & Human Services: www.pandemicflu.gov
- Federal CDC site: www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic
- State of California: www.dhs.ca.gov
- County of San Diego: www.sdbirdflu.org



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
Health and Human Services Agency



Avian/Pandemic Flu Newsletter is published semi-monthly by the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services.

Wilma J. Wooten, M.D., M.P.H.
Acting Public Health Officer

Kay Scavulli, RN, PHN
Epidemiology/Bioterrorism PHN

Margarita Brooks
Newsletter Editor

Please e-mail should you note any written errors or discrepancies or if you have any questions or comments to:
Margarita.Brooks@sdcounty.ca.gov or Kay.Scavulli@sdcounty.ca.gov